

NO FOREIGN DISSEM

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2013/10/18 : LOC-HAK-544-2-8-7



~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~
DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301



DIA review completed.

[Redacted]

DATE: 2 November 1973
TIME: 1650

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST HOSTILITIES

REFERENCE:

[Redacted]

1. GENERAL

[Redacted]

PREPARED BY:

[Redacted]

RELEASED BY:

[Redacted]

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2. UNEF ACTIVITIES

a. (U) A Finnish Ministry of Defense spokesman reported that US aircraft will depart Finland today with some 80 troops and 20 tons of supplies for Cyprus. The troops and supplies subsequently will be flown to Egypt only on aircraft from countries acceptable to Cairo. In this regard, the US has been denied landing clearances in Egypt for aircraft supporting the UNEF.

b. (C) During an informal Security Council meeting on 1 November, the Secretary General agreed to ask Ghana, Liberia, Indonesia, Nepal, Yugoslavia, Panama, Peru and Uruguay to participate in the UNEF. If agreement is reached, the SYG will designate one or more of these countries as UNEF members and arrange transport as soon as possible. The 1 November SC session also agreed to an Indonesian proposal whereby Canada and Poland would furnish initial logistics support to the UNEF.

3. CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONSa. EGYPTIAN FRONT

(U) Nothing reported.

b. SYRIAN FRONT

(U) Nothing reported.

c. LEBANON BORDER

only two cease-fire violations. These consisted of machine gun and mortar fire last night. Reportedly they were initiated by the Israelis near two southern Lebanese border towns. No fire was returned from the Lebanese side of the border.

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4. OTHER ACTIVITIESa. PRISONERS OF WAR

(C) On 31 October, the Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister stated that his country was abiding by the Geneva Convention with regard to PWs. However, providing lists of wounded and allowing visits to PWs by Red Cross officials will not occur until after Israel publicly states its intentions to abide by the Geneva Convention. Additionally, the Syrians want the return of all Syrians killed in action prior to complying with the Geneva accords. These preconditions are viewed as stalling tactics while the Syrian authorities verify the health status of Israeli PWs.

b. RESUPPLY ACTIVITIES

(S) As of the evening of 1 November, some 65 trucks reportedly had reached the trapped 3d Egyptian Army with relief supplies.

5. OTHERa. LIBERIAN-ISRAELI RELATIONS

(C) On 2 November, Liberia became the eighteenth African nation to sever relations with Israel since the beginning of the 6 October hostilities. Ivory Coast, the only remaining country in West Africa still formally recognizing Israel, probably will break with Israel in the near future.

b. IRAQ WITHDRAWS

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c. SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN OFFENSIVE

(TS/NFD/LINDIS) Israeli intelligence officials believe that the surrounded 3d Egyptian Army represents Israel's "hostage" for continued Egyptian observance of the cease-fire.

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The Syrian desire to regain "face" might also lead to a major offensive.

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The key to any offensive action is finding sufficient Syrian tank crews to man the newly arrived armor. Any Syrian offensive must take place prior to the time when winter rains make this area unsuitable for armored warfare.

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currently are heavily fortifying the key high ground north of the Damascus-Sasa road. The lava beds south of the road will become virtual quagmires once the expected heavy rains hit later this month. This would confine large-scale armored operations to the highway system. The search for suitable Syrian tank crews, plus terrain-weather factors, coupled with the withdrawal of Iraqi armor units is likely to postpone any planned Syrian offensive until the spring.

d. ISRAELI AIRCRAFT LOSSES

(TS/NFD/LIMDIS) Initial Israeli analysis of its aircraft losses (including helicopters) indicates that they were about equally divided between SAMs and combined SAM/AAA fire. By mission, well over one-half of the losses were incurred while in close air support; the largest single category of the remaining losses came during SAM suppression missions. According to the Israelis, a total of 11,223 sorties were flown from 6 through 24 October -- averaging about 590 per day. Less detailed data are available on Israeli tank losses; however, information from US observers is that the majority of such losses, on the Syrian front, resulted from tank-to-tank duels or antitank guns rather than from antitank AT-3/SAGGER wire guided-missiles.

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6. SOVIET ACTIVITY

a. GROUND

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d. POLITICAL:

(u) Nothing significant to report.

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